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United Nations

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

General Assembly
Official Records • Forty-eighth Session
Supplement No. 37 (A/48/37)

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 5 March 1993. The Committee held five meetings and a number of informal meetings.

2. The session was opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

3. The following States were represented:

Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea-Bissau
Holy See
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Madagascar
Maldives
Mali
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea

Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were represented.

5. The following specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Bank.

6. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Community, Organization of African Unity and Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

7. A representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa attended the session.

8. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session: NGO Committee for Shelter and Community, National Committee for Habitat, Society for International Development, International Federation of Housing Development, American Planning Association, International Council of Women, Fourth World Movement, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, International Association for Housing Science, Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and International Chamber of Commerce. The following universities in the United States of America sent representatives to attend the session: Columbia University, Ohio University and Florida International University.

C. Election of officers

9. At its 1st meeting, on 3 March, the Preparatory Committee elected Mr. Robert Lloyd Wenman (Canada) Chairman of the Committee by acclamation.

10. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee also elected by acclamation Ms. Pamela Mboya (Kenya), Dr. Stanley Kalpagé (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Hassan Aziz ogly Hassanov (Azerbaijan) as Vice-Chairmen. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, Turkey became an ex officio member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 March, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Ms. Marjorie Ulloa (Ecuador) as Rapporteur.

12. In a brief statement following his election, the Chairman identified the objective of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) as being to formulate a global plan of action to address the issue of the continuing deterioration in the living conditions of a vast segment of population in many countries - an undertaking in which national Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and particularly the United Nations would be major actors. Expressing the hope that the Conference would be as successful as the first Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976, the Chairman observed that the output of the Conference would contribute to the objective of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of achieving a sustainable development process world wide.

D. Adoption of the agenda

13. The Preparatory Committee considered its agenda and the organization of work at its 1st meeting, on 3 March. The provisional agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

4. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

5. Provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

E. Adoption of the report

14. The Preparatory Committee adopted the present report at its 5th meeting, on 5 March.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

15. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 3 and 4 at its 2nd to 5th meetings, from 3 to 5 March. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations on the substantive issues in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/CONF.165/PC/2).

16. The Preparatory Committee began its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General at its 2nd meeting, on 3 March, following an introductory statement by the representative of the Secretariat. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77), the representative of Denmark (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), the representatives of Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United States of America, Japan, Sri Lanka, Algeria and Turkey. The representative of the World Bank also made a statement.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Russian Federation, China, a representative of the Secretariat, and the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Benin, Peru, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Denmark, the Philippines, Kenya, China, Tunisia, India, Sweden, the United States of America, Japan, Finland and Pakistan.

Chairman's summation

19. In his summation of the discussion of items 3 and 4, the Chairman made reference to the following substantive areas for attention in the continuing preparatory work for the Conference: implementation and review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and human settlements-related parts of Agenda 21, 1/ including technology issues; eradication of poverty - urban and rural poverty issues and human settlements; a comprehensive plan of action based on capacity-building and the enabling approach; housing policies and financing - regulatory regimes for housing, building and land-use management and the role of the private sector; promoting investment as a contribution to economic growth, employment and improvement of the quality of life; economic and spatial policies and development strategies for rural and urban settlements, their sustainable interaction and linkages and interdependence; and the contribution of cities to global sustainable development and the institutional framework and mechanisms needed to implement and develop sustainable urban strategies.

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), vol. I, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

A. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

20. At its 5th meeting, on 5 March, the Preparatory Committee decided that its first substantive session would be held from 11 to 22 April 1994 at Geneva (see para. 22 below).

B. Provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee

21. At its 5th meeting, on 5 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following provisional agenda for its first substantive session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparations for the Conference: progress report of the Secretary-General.

3. Draft statement of principals and commitments.

4. Draft issue papers and the draft format for the programmes and subprogrammes of the plan of action.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

22. At its 5th meeting, on 5 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recalling the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 2/ and General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and Assembly resolution 46/164 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996 in Turkey,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which recognized the proper management of human settlements as a prerequisite to the attainment of the overall goals for sustainable development, the centre-piece of which must be the human being,

Bearing in mind the need to take into consideration the work of other recent and planned United Nations conferences on human settlements-related subjects,

Noting that the provision of external financial resources needed to implement the programmes set forth in chapter 7 of Agenda 21 3/ would facilitate the mobilization of resources locally,

Stressing the active role that the Commission on Human Settlements can play in supporting the work of the Preparatory Committee,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 4/

2/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

3/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), vol. I, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

4/ A/CONF.165/PC/2.

1. Invites the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session to provide recommendations to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on substantive issues in an integrated manner for the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 and taking into account discussions on those issues in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee;

2. Invites Member States and observers of the United Nations to submit written proposals to be considered, where practical, by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session when drawing up recommendations on substantive topics for the Conference;

3. Invites the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session to draft guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Preparatory Committee at its first session to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, drawing on the trust fund established in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 47/180, to provide technical and financial assistance in particular for developing countries, at their request, in the preparation of national reports for the Conference;

5. Decides that the first session of the Preparatory Committee should take place from 11 to 22 April 1994 at Geneva and, in this context, requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to ensure the full participation of the delegations of the developing countries in that session, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 47/180;

6. Decides also that the Preparatory Committee will establish at each session, on the basis of its agenda, the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups, as well as the need for other specific sessional arrangements for its work, on the understanding that the number of such groups would not exceed three during a particular session and that no more than two of them would meet simultaneously;

7. Decides further to consider the issues contained in paragraphs 3 (a), (c) and (d) of General Assembly resolution 47/180 and their relationship with the proposed Global Action Plan at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of reports by the Secretary-General;

8. Decides to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the relationship between the Global Strategy for Shelter and the proposed Global Action Plan at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General and to make recommendations for the attainment of the objectives of the Global Strategy by the target date;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in making recommendations on a Global Action Plan, to utilize the results of the review of Agenda 21 3/ on human settlement issues to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the outcome of the regional and subregional preparatory meetings in coordination with the regional economic commissions;

10. Requests the ad hoc secretariat of the Conference at an early stage to obtain an overview of relevant documentation and reports already available or about to be prepared in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of work in other forums;

11. Urges the relevant United Nations programmes, agencies and funds within existing resources, and multilateral financial institutions within their areas of competence, to provide inputs to the preparatory process;

12. Welcomes the decision to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference as an organizational part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

13. Decides that, in order to enable non-governmental organizations effectively to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, their participation shall be governed by the procedures annexed to the present resolution;

14. Requests Governments of the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so to contribute to the separate voluntary funds established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 in order to ensure the preparation of the Conference and the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process as well as in the Conference.

ANNEX

Rules of procedure for the participation of non-governmental organizations

1. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that express their wish to attend the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the meetings of its Preparatory Committee shall be accredited for participation. Others wishing to be accredited may apply to the Conference secretariat for this purpose in accordance with this decision.

2. The secretariat of the Conference shall be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests from non-governmental organizations for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process.

3. All such applications must be accompanied by information on the organization's competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee, indicating the particular areas of the Conference preparations to which such competence and relevance pertain, and which should include, inter alia, the following information:

(a) The purpose of the organization, and the country or countries in which it is active;

(b) Date of establishment and location of the principal office of the organization and confirmation of its activities at the national and/or international level;

(c) Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the Conference and its preparatory process, and the country or countries in which they are carried out;

(d) Copies of its annual reports with financial statements and a list of members of the governing body and their country of nationality;

(e) A description of its membership, indicating the total number of members and their geographical distribution.

4. In the evaluation of the relevance of non-governmental applications for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process, it is agreed that their background and involvement in human settlement issues will determine their relevance.

5. Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation shall be asked to confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the Conference.

6. In cases where the Conference secretariat believes, on the basis of the information provided in accordance with this decision, that the organization has established its competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee, it will recommend to the Preparatory Committee that the organization be accredited. In cases where the Conference secretariat does not recommend the granting of accreditation, it will make available to the Preparatory Committee the reasons for not doing so. The Conference secretariat should ensure that its recommendations are available to the Preparatory Committee at least one week prior to the start of the session.

7. The Preparatory Committee will decide on all cases and proposals for accreditation within twenty-four hours of the Conference secretariat's recommendations having been taken up by the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting. In the event of a decision not having been taken within this period, interim accreditations shall be accorded until such time as a decision is taken.

8. A non-governmental organization that has been granted accreditation to attend a session of the Preparatory Committee may attend all its future sessions.

9. In recognition of the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, non-governmental organizations shall have no negotiating role in the work of the Conference and its preparatory process.

10. Relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may be given an opportunity to address the Preparatory Committee briefly in plenary meeting and in its subsidiary bodies. Other relevant non-governmental organizations may also ask to speak briefly at such meetings. If the number of requests is too large, the Preparatory Committee shall request the non-governmental organizations to form themselves into constituencies, each constituency to speak through one spokesperson. Any oral intervention by a non-governmental organization should, in accordance with normal United Nations practice, be at the discretion of the Chairman and with the consent of the Preparatory Committee.

11. Relevant non-governmental organizations may, at their own expense, make written presentations during the preparatory process in the official languages of the United Nations as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents except in accordance with United Nations rules of procedure.

ANNEX

Documents before the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session

Symbol	Title and description
A/CONF.165/PC/1	Annotated provisional agenda
A/CONF.165/PC/2	Report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations on the substantive issues in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
A/CONF.165/PC/CRP.1	Main points to be addressed by the session: note by the Secretariat
A/CONF.165/PC/L.1 and 2	Draft report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

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